

The Alliance News



Operation: Community Access

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Vision

Our vision is for self-advocates to work together to get the support we need to live the life we want in the community.

Mission

Our mission is to speak up for ourselves and each other while working together to make changes in our communities and in Illinois.

The Alliance is proud to be an Initiative of the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities



Congratulations to Heather Clark and Leanne Roth!



Heather Clark



Leanne Roth

Heather and Leanne were recently appointed to the Board of Directors of The Arc of Illinois. Heather is a self-advocate from Zion, Illinois, and is part of the Self-Advocates of Lake County self-advocacy group. She is also a member of The Alliance's Board of Directors as well as a member of the Operation: Community Access Campaign's Steering Committee. Leanne is the Organizational Coordinator for The Alliance; a trainer for CQL (The Council on Quality and Leadership); a Project Liaison for NTAC (National Technical Assistance Center for Voting and Cognitive Access); and an advisor for SABE (Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered).

Thanks for speaking up and speaking out on behalf of self-advocates in Illinois!

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

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Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance



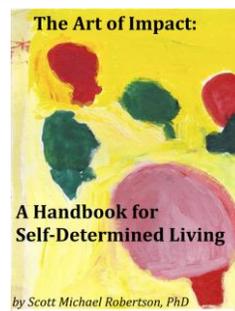
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NFB-NEWSLINE® now offers more choices than ever, including special local channels to distribute announcements of specific interest to the blind.

Over 40 magazines, ranging from the Arts, Science, Health and Fitness, Pop Culture and National and International news are available on NFB-NEWSLINE®.



The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) during its Annual Conference near Reno, NV released a new on-line publication on self-advocacy written by and for individuals with developmental disabilities. The publication, "The Art of Impact: A Handbook for Living a Self-Determined Life" was written by Dr. Scott Michael Robertson in conjunction with the Self-Advocate Leadership Circle of the NACDD. The publication is filled with resources, information and tips for successful advocacy. The accessible publication is available in multiple formats including PDF, e-reader and straight text and is available at <http://startyourjourney.org/>

"Many individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are advocating for their own and others' needs and are excellent advocates in their local areas as well as nationally," said Donna Meltzer, CEO of the NACDD. "We created this Handbook to showcase the power of self-advocacy and the unique way in which each person can advocate. The Handbook features interviews with self-advocates who have testified before legislators, written books or curriculum for teaching, and even one gentleman who uses stand-up comedy to teach others about his disability."

The Alliance Staff Contact Information

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Advocacy Through Research: Disability and Disasters

The George Washington University is conducting research about how adults with physical disabilities think about and prepare for disasters.

To take part in the study, adults must:

- Be 18 years or older
- Live in the United States
- Self-identify as a person with a physical disability (limitations with physical functioning, mobility, dexterity or stamina; this includes difficulty walking, moving limbs, etc.)

Participants are invited to complete a survey online or by telephone.

The survey will take approximately 20-30 minutes when completed online and approximately 40 minutes when completed by telephone. Participants will receive a \$10.00 gift card (from Amazon, iTunes, or Target) for their time and effort. Please email emergencyprepstudy@gmail.com or call (202) 994-1887 for more information!



**People with Disabilities Can Earn \$50 for Doing a Phone Video
Of a Presidential Candidate's Response
To a Disability Question!!!**

VIDEOS MUST BE SUBMITTED by TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015!

The new online publication, www.TheRespectAbilityReport.com, will pay \$50 to People with Disabilities who attend an event with a presidential candidate and get a video of them answering or addressing a question on disability issues. We want candidates to see and meet people with disabilities and to constantly be asked their views on our issues. Here's how it works.

- 1) A person with a disability attends an event with a candidate and asks the candidate a question about a disability issue.
- 2) That person uses their phone or other means to record the candidate's answer. The recording must be clear enough so that we can understand exactly what the candidate is saying.
- 3) Email the recording and your contact info to LaurenA@RespectAbilityUSA.org and give us the rights to use the video.
- 4) If you are the first person to send that video in (especially if you are the person who asked the question) we will send you \$50. If multiple copies of the SAME video are submitted by multiple people, only the first person to submit that video will get the \$50.
- 5) You need to tell us how to make out the check, and where to send it.
- 6) We will post the video on our Youtube and report on it if it covers new ground. If it does not cover new ground we will still send you \$50.

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi www.RespectAbilityUSA.org (202) 365-0787



**Meet Angela James,
advisor of
Vocational Voices self-advocacy group
at
Ada. S. McKinley Community Services, Inc.!**



Tell us a little about Vocational Voices.

Ada S. McKinley's Vocational Voices is located in the Englewood neighborhood of Chicago's south side. The group was formed in May of 2013. I noticed that although advocates were speaking up individually there wasn't a group that was working to advocate together. I felt it would also assist in teaching and practicing self advocacy and leadership skills. After a visit with Sertoma United for guidance Vocational Voices was formed

How long have you been an advisor and what is your role?

I've been the advisor since the formation of the group. I advise the group in addition to my regular work duties as a production supervisor.

What has been Vocational Voices biggest accomplishment (s)?

The group really wanted to focus on giving back to the community. Vocational Voices has held a very successful food drive for the last 2 years, donating to local Englewood food pantries. The group also collected over 100 signatures pledging to stop the use of the "R" word at CSU Disability Awareness Fair. We've also collected and cut hundreds of plastic shopping bags which are crocheted into mats for the homeless

What has been your biggest obstacle as an advisor?

My biggest obstacle is helping the group come up with new ideas to stay active. They are a very enthusiastic group so they are always looking for "what's next"

What is Vocational Voices currently working on?

Operation: Community Access Campaign is our main project right now. We are assisting the workshop in scheduling an outing to the circus. We are also in the process of scheduling time to volunteer at a local soup kitchen.

Any words of advice for an advisor of a self-advocacy group?

Find the balance between **assisting** and **advising** the group and not completely **running** the group. Sometimes it's easy to take over and overstep your role

What are 3 words that describe self-advocacy?

Communication. Respect. Advancement.



**National Gateway
to Self-Determination**

Resources. Information. Research to Practice.

The National Gateway to Self-Determination Web Portal is a clearinghouse for resources, training, and information on promoting self-determination. It provides a single access for self-advocates, professionals, policy-makers, families, and the general public on the current best practices and evidence-based activities in enhancing self-determination in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Log on to www.ngsd.org to learn more.

Take the People First Pledge and encourage others to do the same!



PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE PLEDGE

Words matter! For too long, hurtful words have been used about people who have disabilities. So I pledge to make changes in how I think and talk, and will use PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE, to put the person first, not the disability. The examples below will be my guide. Using PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE is about having respect and following the Golden Rule.

I WILL SAY:

Individuals with disabilities

Cognitive disability

Mike has autism.

JoAnn uses a wheelchair.

Steve has a physical disability.

Maria has a mental health condition.

Tyrone communicates with...

Accessible Parking

INSTEAD OF:

Handicapped/disabled

Mental retardation

Mike is autistic.

JoAnn is wheelchair-bound.

Steve is crippled.

Maria is mentally ill.

Tyron is non-verbal.

Handicapped Parking

I will also pledge not to use the "R-Word" (retard) or terms like idiot, imbecile, moron, psycho, lame, special needs and other disability labels that are used as insults or that may be hurtful. I will treat others as I want to be treated.

I make this pledge on _____ , _____

Location: _____

Print name: _____

Signed _____

Be a Part of Advocacy in Action by attending your local Advisory Council Meeting**North Suburban**

To Be Announced
Community Alternatives Unlimited
8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL

North Central

Tuesday, October 6, 2015
10am
Freedom Hall (Morton Park District building)
349 W. Birchwood
Morton, IL

Northwest

Tuesday, September 8, 2015
4.30pm
Milestone Training Center
4504 Shepherd Trail
Rockford, IL

City of Chicago

Tuesday, November 10, 2015
UIC's Institute on Disabilities and Human Development (Auditorium)
1640 W. Roosevelt Road
Chicago, IL

Central Region

To Be Announced
DHS DDD - Centrum Building
319 East Madison
Springfield, IL

Southern Region

Wednesday, November 18, 2015
10.30am
Bel-Air Bowl (downstairs meeting room)
200 South Belt West
Belleville, IL

South Suburban

Thursday, November 19, 2015
2pm
Suburban Access
900 Maplewood Avenue
Homewood, IL